OF THE

Town of Weston,

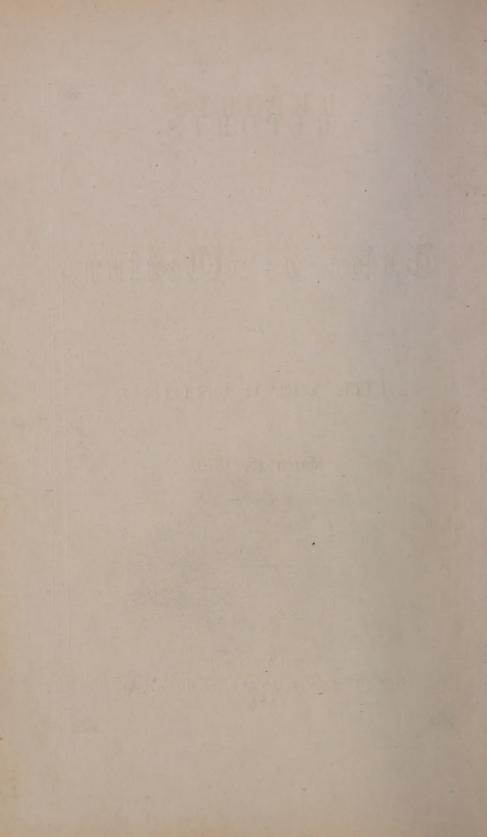
FOR

THE YEAR ENDING

March 15, 1870.

BOSTON:

J. M. HEWES, PRINTER, 65 CORNHILL. 1870.



OF THE

Town of Weston,

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING

March 15, 1870.

BOSTON: J. M. HEWES, PRÍNTER, 65 CORNHILL. 1870. The second second

OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF WESTON, 1870.

Town Clerk.
GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

Selectmen.

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWARD COBURN, ABIJAH COBURN.

Assessors.

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWIN HOBBS, NAHUM SMITH.

Overseers of Poor.

ALONZO S. FISKE, JESSE S. VILES, THEODORE JONES.

Town Treasurer and Collector.
HORACE HEWS.

School Committee.

EDWIN HOBES, 1 year, REUBEN WILLIS, 2 years, ISAAC E. COBURN, 3 years.

Library Committee.

EDMUND H. SEARS, NAHUM SMITH, JOHN COBURN.

Library Treasurer. HORACE HEWS. Trustees of Merriam Fund.

EDWIN HOBBS,

ISAAC COBURN,

GEO. W. CUTTING, JR.

Burial Ground Committee.

EDWIN HOBBS,

ISAAC COBURN,

HORACE HEWS.

Highway Surveyors.

District No. 1. CHARLES DUNN,

" " 2. LUTHER S. UPHAM,

" 3. JOHN CARTER,

" 4. ALONZO S. FISKE,

" 5. CHARLES A. WARREN,

" 6. SAMUEL F. CLARK.

Measurers of Wood & Bark.

District No. 1. GEO. W. CUTTING,

" 2. EDWARD E. BROWN,

" 3. GEO. W. DUNN,

" 4. EBEN'R TUCKER & GEO. WARREN.

" 5. BENJ. F. CUTTER,

" 6. HORACE LEADBETTER.

Surveyors of Lumber.

DANIEL SMITH,

EBEN'R TUCKER, JR.,

NATHAN BARKER.

Fence Viewers.

ISAAC COBURN,

NATHAN BARKER,

NAHUM SMITH.

Field Drivers.

EDWIN W. BAXTER, WILLIAM DUDLEY, ABIJAH COBURN,

NAHUM SMITH, AMRI BARKER, CHARLES H. FISKE.

Constables.

EDWARD COBURN,

GEO. W. CUTTING, JR.

EDWIN W. BAXTER.

Librarian.

JOHN COBURN.

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF WESTON.

The Selectmen of the Town of Weston, for the year ending March 7th, 1870, submit the following Report of the financial condition of the town, likewise their estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

During the past year \$1,750 of the town debt has been paid. The heaviest extraordinary expense which has arisen, has been the rebuilding of what is commonly called Slack's Bridge, over Charles River, in conjunction with the Town of Newton, all the necessary charges and expenses of the town have been defrayed. For the exact state of our finances and the items of expenditure, we would refer, as customary, to the Treasurer's forth-coming Report, which will exhibit the receipts and expenditures in detail.

We would call the attention of the town to the condition of our highways. When compared with towns on the South and East of us, the comparison is highly unfavorable; but when compared with those on the North and West, it is more favorable; nevertheless, their state is such that the public imperatively demand that they should be improved, especially our main thoroughfares running through the town.

In view of the increased appropriation of last year, we will not urge an increase this year, but hope it will be no less, and sincerely wish that the wisdom of the town might devise some way or means by which it might derive more benefit from the money actually expended on higways than it has, in many instances, in past years.

For the ensuing year we would recommend appropriations as

10110)WS :									
For	Schools,						•.	\$2,800	00	
66	Highways,							1,800	00	
66	Support of p	oor a	nd inc	ident	als,			2,700	00	
66	Town Debt,					4.1		1,000	00	
								\$8,300	00	

Respectfully submitted,

ALONZO S. FISKE, BENJ. F. CUTTER, EDWARD COBURN, Selectmen Of Weston.

OF THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

THE Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Weston submit to the town the following Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Pauper Establishment for the year ending March 7th, 1870.

RECEIPTS.

Cash rece	eived from sale of o	exen and	cows,			\$220	00	
66		igs and		4 1317		177		
66	66 66 T	nilk, .	,			596		
66	66 66 T	otatoes,	corn. &	c.	11:19		09	
66	66 66 T	ickles,	00111, 60	0.	•		12	
66	66 66 6	alves,			1 .	-	56	
66	" "	aives,			•		94	
46	6 11	nay,						
	from labo		m,			35		
	" Tre	asury,				716	01	
						\$2,029	44	
	DVD.	EXTITUT	DEC					
	EAP.	ENDITU	RES.					
Cash paid	Henry Wheeler,	Superinte	ndent,	1 mon	th.	\$22	92	
66	George Lawrence	- 66	11	mont	hs.	H		
	ending March				,	297	88	
66	two cows, .		,	100			00	
66	meat and fish,			•	•	252		
66			14 .	•		125		
66	brewer's grains,							
66	labor,					199		
	meal and scraps,					157		
66	blacksmith's bills,					29	10	
	Amount	carried.	forward	7,		\$1,207	38	

	Amount brought forward,	\$1,207	38
Cash paid	horse cart,	38	00
66	harnesses, market and horse cart and		
	repairs,	70	10
66	articles of clothing for inmates,	15	12
66	tools and various articles for establishment,	45	70
66	coal,	48	00
66	pasturing,	32	00
66	grass and other seeds,	23	15
66	manure and plaster,	14	00
66	mason and carpenter's bills, repairs,	9	25
66	butter, flour and groceries,	333	24
66	expenses to Tewksbury, Brighton, Little-		
	ton, &c.	11	25
66	Dr. Willis, medical services,	68	00
44	marketing, advertising and items,	21	00
66	Town of Saugus, assistance furnished		
	Charles A. Hobbs and family,	14	00
66	City of Charlestown, assistance furnished		
	Eliza Spring,	5	50
66	assistance furnished John Stimpson,	- 15	
66	" Mrs. Wm. Harrington,	28	75
66	Overseers, for their services,		00
1			
		\$2,029	44
		W)	

The number of inmates at the present time is six, all of whom may be considered as permanent, and are unable to perform labor of any account. John Stimpson was admitted to the Almshouse the 12th of February last, aged 81. Seventy-three persons have been furnished with food and lodging the past year, and one has been conveyed to Tewksbury. There is due the establishment \$315 for milk and other items at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

ALONZO S. FISKE, Overseers
B. PIERCE,
J. S. VILES, the Poor.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

THE undersigned, Treasurer of Weston, submits his account of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending this day.

Horace Hews.

\$433 77

\$819 77

WESTON, MARCH 15, 1870.

Receipts.

Rent of Town Hall, George W. Cutting, weighing fees, Benjamin F. Cutter, old lumber sold, State of Massachusetts, on account of School Fund, " " State Aid refunded, " " Corporation Tax, County of Middlesex, on account of Dog Licenses, Waltham Bank, temporary loans, Horace Hews, Collector, taxes, 1869, " " 1868, " " 1867,	31 134 338 1,812 138	00 11 00 87 00 96 72 00 22 45 63
\$	21,352	95
Expenditures.		
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.		
Paid School Committee,	\$2,934	87
FOR SUPPORT OF POOR.		
Paid Overseers of Poor,	\$716	01

FOR REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Amount carried forward,

" 2. Luther S. Upham,

District No. 1. Horatio A. Hagar,

Amount brought forward,	\$819 77
District No. 3. John Carter, " " 4. Jesse S. Viles, " " 5. William Seaverns, " 6. M. G. Leadbetter,	148 60
" " 4. Jesse S. Viles	366 98
" 5. William Seaverns,	. 328 30
" 6. M. G. Leadbetter,	. 174 00
·	\$1,837 65
FOR EXTRA REPAIRS ON ROADS.	
B. F. Cutter, widening and railing road near Starr's bridge,	. \$48 65
I. Leadbetter, railing road, and setting stone at angles in ro	ad, 22 00
M. G. Leadbetter, railing bridge,	. 16 00
L. S. Upham, repairing bridge and sidewalk.	. 13 00
W. N. Gowell, "culvert,	8 00
G. W. Pope, " "	. 10 00
E. Coburn, "drain,	. 5 00
Robert Mansfield, surveying road,	. 6 00
Wm. Seaverns, breaking out roads, and drawing stone, .	. 28 60
Horatio Hagar, """	. 14 00
J. S. Viles, " " "	17 00
M. G. Leadbetter, " "	. 15 60
L. S. Upham, """.	. 17 00
Horatio Hagar, " " " "	. 3 50
	\$224 35
FOR BRIDGES.	
2 2	
Royal Gilkey, plank,	. \$63 41
A. Jordan, re-building Slack's bridge,	. 370 00
B. F. Cutter, railing bridge,	. 1 05
B. F. Cutter, labor, Starr's bridge,	. 45 15
	dh 470 . Cd
	\$479 61
CARE AND REPAIRS OF SCHOOL-HOUS	SES.
School Committee, repairing School-houses,	. \$194 16
Abijah Gregory, " "	. 36 30
0, 12, Olcott,	. 31 91
Samuel Patch, wood box and steps,	. 8 75
School Committee, care of rooms,	. 141 50
" report cards,	. 7 00
Isaac Coburn, wood,	. 30 00
L. S. Upnam, "	. 119 25
J. S. Viles, "	. 32 25
Ivathan Opham,	69 75
Wm. G. Shattuck, School furniture,	. 37 65
	\$708 52
FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES	φ100 02
FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.	
Daniel Smith, labor and stock, Town Hall,	. \$8 00
J. M. Hewes, preparing and printing Town Reports,	. 82 05
Amount carried forward,	\$90 05
Amount curried forward,	\$30.03

Amount brought forward	\$90	05
School Committee, books,	φ30 14	
Library Committee, rehinding books	10	
Edward Coburn, wood for Town Hall,	4	
Library Committee, rebinding books, Edward Coburn, wood for Town Hall, — McLaughlin, rebinding books, Francis Hastings, land, gravel for roads,	12	
Francis Hastings, land, gravel for roads.	50	
Town of Lincoln, fax.	8	
Isaac Coburn, wood for Town House and High School, .	. 34	
	3	
R. J. French, cutting wood, Town House,	13	
Edwin Hobbs, articles furnished High School,	20	
Daniel Smith, warrant box.	2	
Daniel Smith, warrant box, Sexton, returning deaths, A. S. Fiske, expenses to Boston, &c.	. 1	
Sexton, returning deaths, A. S. Fiske, expenses to Boston, &c. "stamps, stationery and expressage, Selectmen, perambulating Town Lines, Burial Ground Committee expenses of burial grounds	. 8	
" stamps, stationery and expressage	14	12
Selectmen, perambulating Town Lines, Burial Ground Committee, expenses of burial grounds, H. Hews, stamps, expressage, and dist. Town Reports,	. 24	00
Burial Ground Committee, expenses of burial grounds, .	. 45	42
H. Hews, stamps, expressage, and dist. Town Reports, .	. 7	38
	69	60
Library Committee, expenses purchasing books,	. 5	00
Railroad Committee, surveying,	. 11	25
Railroad Committee, surveying, George W. Cutting & Son, items for Town Hall & Library,	. 59	40
" " ringing bell,	3	00
A. H. Hews, Constable 1868 and 1869,	. 20	18
For Library,	. 75	00
For Library, A. S. Fiske, services as Assessor,	. 10	
E. H. Sears, advertising,	1	88
	\$621	20
FOR STATE AND COUNTY TAX.		
FOR STATE AND COUNTY TAX.		
State Tax,	\$2,725	
County Tax,	1,109	35
	\$3,834	35
FOR LOANS AND INTEREST.		
Waltham Bank, temporary loans,	\$6,300	00
Estate of Marshall Jones, loan, Sundry persons and institutions, interest,	750 994	00
Sundry persons and institutions, interest,	994	11
	\$8,044	11
FOR SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.	. ,	
	. ,	
71 177 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$30	
71 177 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$ 30	00
71 177 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$30 30 60	00
71 177 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$30 30 60 60	00 00 00
71 177 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$30 30 60 60 40	00 00 00 00
71 177 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$30 30 60 60 40 25	00 00 00 00
71 177 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$30 30 60 60 40	00 00 00 00
Elmund H. Sears, superintending Schools, 1 year, Reuben Willis, " " 1 " Edwin Hobbs, " 2 years, Isaac E. Coburn, " 2 " Alonzo S. Fiske, Selectman,	\$30 30 60 60 40 25	00 00 00 00 00

		Amo	unt h	conab	t form	hand			\$270	00
A. S. Fiske, Assessor,		23.1160		vagni	jora	uruş			75	
Edwin Hobbs, "		Ċ	·	Ċ		·		·	30	
Nahum Smith, "									30	00
John Coburn, Librarian,									75	00
John Coburn, Librarian, George W. Cutting, Jr., 7	Town	n Cle	rk,						50	79
Horace Hews, Collector a	nd I	Creasi	irer,						175	00
	TOLO	D 01	T1 A (T1)	13 A T	D				\$705	79
		R S'								
Paid Selectmen's orders,	to be	reim	burse	ed by	the S	state,	•	• •	\$454	50
	FO	R D	ISCO	HN	rs.					
T): 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1						4 J. 4			# 2 0 0	00
Discounts on taxes paid to	OC1	. 10,	and p	orior	to tha	t dat	θ,	•	\$600 45	
	om '	Oct. 1	om i	o Jan	i. 18t ₉	men	isive,	٠	40	
									\$645	73
	FOR	R AB	ATE	MEN	ITS.					
Abatement of taxes, 1868									\$16	00
" " " 1869	,								54	20
	_									
									\$70	20
Amount of payments,								\$	21,276	89
Balance in the Treasury,	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ψ,	76	06
- Louising,		Ť	·	·	·	·		_		
								\$	21,352	95
SCHE	EDU	LE (OF T	OW.	N D	EBT.				
Bonds of the Town,								. 4	\$8,450	00
Weston Town Library,									1,300	
Estate of A. H. Fiske.								•	3,500	00
Theodore Jones, Trustee,									1,000	00
								-		
r	אניםים	POF	ADT	7 T O	ÁN			\$	14,250	00
					AIV.					
There is due to H. Hews,	tem	porar	y loa	n,	•	•	•	•	\$300	00
To offset which there is, a	as ass	ets-	Taxe	s unc	ollect	ed.			\$582	88
Balance in the Treasury,						•			76	
• /										
									\$658	94
Deduct temporary loan,	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	300	00
Excess of assets, .									\$358	0.4
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	фооо	34
	XE	S U	NCO.	LLE	CTE	D.				
Taxes for 1865, .	*	•				•		•		13
" " 1866, .									6	16
1000,		•	•		•					
" " 1867		•			•					55
" " 1867	•	•			•		•		35	55 86
" " 1867, . " 1868, . " " 1869, "	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			55 86
" " 1867	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	35	55 86 18

PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN.

Town House, Six School-houses, Almshouse and sixty-eig Personal property, . Weston Town Library,	ght ac	res of	land,	•	•	•	•	. 9,500 . 5,000 . 2,000	00 00 00
								\$26,000	00
VA	LUAT	CION	OF	TH	е тс	WN			
Personal Estate, .			• *	: .				\$473,417	00
Real Estate,	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	596,450	00
	To	tal,						\$1,069,867	00
STA	TE A	AND	COU	INT	TA	XES	3.		
Amount assessed by the Rate per cent. \$12.00 p			•			•		\$13,464	40
Corporation Tax, assess			State:	for 18	369,			1,812	96

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

We, the subscribers, Selectmen of Weston, have examined the foregoing account, and find the same well vouched and correctly cast.

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWARD COBURN, ABIJAH COBURN, Weston.

WESTON, MARCH 15, 1870.

OF THE

LIBRARY TREASURER.

HORACE HEWS in account with the WESTON TOWN LIBRARY.

Dr.		
Balance from former account,	•	. \$18 65
Town of Weston, interest on Library Fund,	•	. 78 00
Appropriation of Town for Library, .	•	. 75 00
Received of Librarian, fines,	•	. 4 55
		\$176 20
Cr.		
Paid Nichols & Noyes, for books,		. \$164 83
" for expressage,		. 1 25
Balance in the Treasury,		. 10 12
		\$176 20
LIBRARY FUND.		
Town of Weston, "Merriam Fund," .		\$1,000 00
" " Fiske Fund," .		300 00
		\$1,300 00

OF THE

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.



THE Committee submit their Annual Report of the condition of the Library for the year ending March 1st, 1870. The statistics of the year are as follows:

Numbe	er of	volume	s purchased,	•		•	119
66	66	66	donated,	٠			11
66	. 66	66	taken out,				4433
Whole	No.	of vols.	in Library at	the	present	time,	3300

Names of donors of books in the Library, Hon. Charles Sumner, Hon. Geo. M. Brooks, and F. W. Bigelow, Esq.

We have during the year made a large addition to our list of History, comprising many works of permanent value, which with the usual variety we are able to furnish, it is hoped may prove acceptable and meet the varied wants of our increasing circle of readers.

Our friends who seek the benefits of the Library have doubtless felt great inconvenience arising from our present plan of printing the addition of books in connection with the Town Report. It would seem to be necessary, after a term of years, to revise the transient lists and bring them into more compact form.

Respectfully submitted,

NAHUM SMITH,
EDWARD H. SEARS,
JOHN COBURN,

Library
Committee.

OF

THE BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE.



THE Committee on Burial Grounds submit their Annual Report. The sum of fifty dollars was granted by the town for the care and improvement of the several Burial Grounds in town. Most of this sum has been expended in the ordinary care and improvement usual in such cases. New lots have been taken during the year, and are to be graded and enclosed. As no more than the usual improvements of past years will be needed or expected for the ensuing year, the Committee recommend that the usual sum of fifty dollars be appropriated.

The following items of expenditure for the past year are herewith submitted:

Paid	for	labor, South Burial Ground,				• ,	\$ 3	50
66	46	sundries, Old Burial Ground	, .				2	95
66	"	trees and plants for Centre I	Burial	Gro	and,		9	50
"	66	cleaning and repairing well,		• 2			8	00
"	66	gravel, clay and labor,					18	60
66	66	trimming hedges, &c.,					2	87
							\$45	42

. Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN HOBBS, ISAAC COBURN, HORACE HEWS, Burial Ground Committee.

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE MERRIAM FUND,

For the Silent Poor of Weston.

ALTHOUGH not required by law to present to the public any report of their doings, yet it has seemed proper to the Trustees to present to the citizens of Weston a few facts in relation to the origin, history and design of this fund; and perhaps we cannot do this in any way so briefly and clearly, as by inserting in this place the letter of Mr. Merriam himself. Very few of our citizens have ever seen this letter. It was directed to the Selectmen of Weston, and is dated March 28th, 1865, and is as

GENTLEMEN: - Enclosed I hand United States seven and threetenths Treasury Note for One Thousand Dollars.

My object is to commence the establishment of a fund for the benefit of what I shall call "The Silent Poor of the Town."

And I desire that the interest and income shall be paid over, not to town paupers, but to that class of honest, temperate men and women, who work hard or are prudent and economical, and yet find it difficult to make both ends meet. To such, a load of wood, occasionally a few groceries, or a little flour or meal, will always be of great service.

Now an important point is the judicious distribution, from year to year, of this income. I leave that matter entirely to the town, suggesting only that three or more persons, selected from the different parts of the town, would be able to represent his or her location, and thus in conference all cases of need would be made known.

I am, very respectfully, CHARLES MERRIAM.

This letter was read at the Annual Meeting of the town, held April 3d, 1865, when a vote of thanks was passed and transmitted to Mr. Merriam. At the same meeting six gentlemen were chosen as Trustees, viz.:—Edwin Hobbs, Calvin H. Topliff, Geo. W. Dunn, Benj. F. Cutter, Increase Leadbetter, Jr., and Alonzo S. Fiske. These served until March 4th, 1867, when the town voted to reduce the number of Trustees to three, and that they be chosen for three years. Edwin Hobbs, Isaac Coburn and Rufus Babcock were then chosen to serve for the next three years. Horace Hews was chosen Treasurer.

In a personal interview with Mr. Merriam a short time before his death, he stated to the Trustees that it was his object to commence this fund, hoping that other citizens of the town, in making a disposition of their estates, might add to this fund, so that in future years it might be a great blessing to the honest and industrious poor of the town. He further stated it as his wish, that the Trustees should be honest men,—men who could be trusted to distribute this income where it was most needed, and that they should not be expected to make public any cases where the money had been bestowed. Many, doubtless, would be glad to receive a little help in a needy hour, who would not be willing that the fact should be published to the world. The Trustees have endeavored to act upon this principle during the years they have been entrusted with this duty. They have kept a record of all cases where assistance has been rendered, and they are willing, at any time, to open their book and show where every dollar has been paid. They receive no compensation for their own services, above that of being the almoners of another's bounty. The amount which it is in our power to give in any one case, of course, must be small, as the present sum at our disposal is very small. Many needy and worthy cases may have escaped our notice, but, if so, it has been through ignorance of their existence, and not by design. We invite the citizens of the town to communicate with us in relation to all cases coming within the design of this fund. One greater than man has said, "The poor ye have always with you, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good."

We trust that we shall not be deemed impertinent if we suggest this method of doing good, to those who are disposing of their earthly goods preparatory to the closing up of the business of life, "Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these

my brethren ye have done it unto Me."

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN HOBBS,
ISAAC COBURN,
GEO. W. CUTTING, JR.,

Trustees
of
Merriam Fund.

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

In conformity with the laws of the Commonwealth, your Committee herewith submit their report of the several schools in town. The requirement of the statute is, that "The School Committee shall annually make a detailed report of the condition of the several public schools, which report shall contain such statements and suggestions in relation to the schools as the Committee deem necessary and proper to promote the interests thereof." In our reports in past years we have noticed each school separately, making such suggestions as seemed needed, and giving such encouragement as we thought each deserved; and while we have endeavored to avoid all undue harshness or unkindness towards teachers or scholars, we have made such suggestions to both, as would stimulate to more vigorous efforts in everything essential to the best good of the schools. So far as the results of the year are concerned, we believe that they will compare favorably with past years. We have had fewer changes of teachers than in former years, and we believe that all have labored diligently and faithfully to the extent of their abilities; but, as in all other departments of labor, some with a greater degree of success than others. We cannot urge too strongly upon teachers the importance of a thorough preparation for their work. Various means of improvement are always within their reach and should be eagerly embraced. The teacher who never goes outside his school-room,- never reads any of the publications of the day treating upon the duties and qualifications of teachers, and the best methods of imparting instruction,—never attends any of the conventions and associations of teachers, nor ever visits any other schools where our most competent teachers have charge,—must not be surprised if he finds himself and his school falling far behind the standard of excellence to which every teacher should aim. The world is moving on, and those who would be truly successful must be up with the times.

All the schools have been of uniform length (37 weeks) except the West Centre, No. 2, which has continued to decrease in numbers until the Committee felt that it would be best to close the house for the fall term, and allow the few remaining scholars to enter the other schools. We are fully aware that in making this arrangement we subjected one or two families to a little inconvenience; but we could not feel that we should be justified in paying a teacher full wages and heating and caring for the school-room, when no more than five scholars would have attended. As some might have thought that the Committee, in pursuing this course, transcended their powers, and as many inquiries are made in respect to the duties and powers of the School Committee, we shall transcribe at this time some instructions received during the past year from the Hon. Joseph White, Secretary of the Board of Education, relative to this subject.

Powers and Daties of School Committee.

1st. It will be the duty of the School Committee, "unless the town otherwise direct," to keep the school-houses in order, provide fuel and other things necessary, &c., and to procure a suitable place for the schools, where there is, no school-house;—and in all cases, to have charge of the school-houses so far as relates to the use of them.

2d. "To select and contract with the teachers," to prescribe their duties and dismiss them whenever they think proper.

Contracts made by the Committee for the period which the schools are required by law to be kept, bind the town, even though

the appropriation may be insufficient. On this point the Supreme Court uses the following language:—" Towns are obliged to maintain schools for certain periods during the year, and the Committee have power to select and contract with teachers. For the time during which the towns are obliged by law to keep the schools, they must pay such salaries as may be contracted for by the Committee."

- 3d. To direct what books shall be used, and procure a sufficient supply of the same; also, to purchase apparatus, books of reference, maps, &c., for which they may use twenty-five per cent. of the annual income of the school fund received by the town.
- 4th. It is the duty of the Committee, whenever practicable, to prescribe a regular systematic course of study, to be strictly followed in all the schools; to decide whether, and in what schools, algebra, vocal music, drawing, physiology, hygiene, and agriculture shall be taught; and to require "the daily reading of some portions of the Bible" in all the schools.
- 5th. Besides the foregoing rules and duties, specially defined, the Committee "have the general charge and superintendence of all the public schools in town." This language has been construed by the Supreme Court to embrace the following particulars: To decide "how many schools shall be organized"—which includes the power to direct what schools pupils of different ages and qualifications shall attend; to grade and classify them, and to prescribe the studies for each grade and class.

To decide "how many schools shall be kept." The statute requires that a sufficient number, &c., be kept. The Committee are to decide what is a sufficient number.

"What shall be the qualifications for admission to the schools, the age which children may enter, and the age to which they may continue; these all must be regulated by the Committee under their power of general superintendence." This power "vests a plenary authority in the Committee to arrange, classify, and distribute pupils, in such manner as they think best adapted to their general proficiency and welfare."

6th. The School Committee have the general control, through the teacher, of the order and discipline of the school, and may exclude any pupil therefrom for just cause.

There has been no change of books during the year, except in that of geographies, in which Colton & Fitch's and Warren's have been exchanged for Guyot's. This change has given great satisfaction, and a new interest has been awakened in this important study.

The sum appropriated by the town for the payment of teachers' salaries, exclusive of fuel and care of
rooms, was
Amount received from Massachusetts School Fund, . 134 87
\$2,934 87
Paid salaries of John F. Casey and John H. Larry,
teachers in the High School, \$900 00
" Miss Coburn and Mrs. Larry, Assistants, 298 33
" the salaries of teachers in the several District
Schools, 1,703 98
\$2,902 31
We have paid for fuel,
Care of rooms, making fires, &c
The whole number of scholars connected with all the
schools, is
Number under five years of age, 9
" over fifteen years of age, 45
" of persons between five and fifteen years of
age, May 1st, 1869,
The following scholars have been perfect in their attendance

The following scholars have been perfect in their attendance through the year:—

Mattie A. R. Harrington,	School	No.	6.
Anthony Irving,	44	66	6.
Ellen M. Jennings,	66	66	5.
Willie P. Morse,	66	66	5.

In the High School eleven of the scholars have had perfect attendance through the year; a much larger number than in any previous year.

SCHOOL NO. 1. EAST CENTRE DISTRICT.

Miss S. Lizzie Eaton and Miss Hannah M. Jones, Teachers.

Miss Eaton had charge of this school during the Spring Term, but continued ill-health compelled her to resign a position which she had filled with credit to herself and with entire acceptance to the Committee. She had taught in two of our public schools for several years, and was highly appreciated as a faithful teacher.

Her place was supplied by Miss Hannah M. Jones, whose capabilities, as a teacher, are too well known to require any words on the part of the Committee. She had labored with a high degree of success for ten consecutive years in two of our public schools,one year in No. 6, and nine years in No. 2, and was now prepared, after a season of rest, to enter again this field of labor with renewed strength and ripened experience. We hardly need say that she succeeded well in this new field of labor, fully sustaining her previous reputation as a competent and successful teacher. The school is now the largest in town, and, as such, requires tact and administrative ability on the part of the teacher. We can truly say that the past year has been one of patient study; of well-directed effort on the part of teachers and scholars, and that commendable progress has been made in all the different branches pursued. A good deal of attention has been given to singing during the winter, and by the aid of an instrument, many new pieces have been learned, and a new interest aroused in this important exercise.

School No. 2. West Centre District.

Miss Emma M. Hews, Teacher.

The Spring Term of this school commenced with eight scholars, two of this number came from Wayland, and two left the middle of the term, leaving but six as the whole number of scholars for the last half of the term. At the time the Fall Term should have commenced, the Committee knew of only five who would be likely to attend school, and they felt that it would not be best to commence school under these circumstances; they thought it would be better for these few children to attend the other schools nearest to them, and, where this was impracticable, they offered to pay for private instruction. The Winter Term commenced with ten scholars, but by the removal of one family, and the continued absence of another scholar, the school was reduced to eight, who were present at the closing examination.

For the coming Spring Term, we see no reason why this number will not be still further diminished, and we feel that it would be better to make some other provision for these half dozen children rather than support a school with so few to enjoy its benefits.

The school has been under the care of Miss Emma M. Hews, an excellent young lady, and an energetic and thorough teacher. The Committee only wish that she had a large number to enjoy the advantages of her faithful and excellent instructions. With all the disadvantages under which she has labored, she has given all her energies to her work as if surrounded by an hundred, and the closing examination was creditable to herself and her scholars. We were much pleased with the very sweet singing to which we were permitted to listen.

School No. 3. North West District.

Miss Martha E. Fiske and Miss Maria Jones, Teachers.

Miss Fiske has had charge of this school for the past two years. Under her efficient administration it has greatly prospered; but her constant labors had somewhat impaired her health, and she was advised to take a season of rest during the winter.

At the partial examination of the school at the end of the Fall Term, the Committee were pleased with the steady progress which had been made during the time she had labored in the school. The scholars all loved her, and at the close of the term presented her with a substantial testimonial of their esteem.

Her place was supplied for the winter by Miss Maria Jones, whose literary qualifications were ample for the work she had undertaken. She labored hard for the best interests of the school, but under some disadvantages which could not be entirely overcome. It was her first school, and she had taken the place of a favorite teacher, whose place in the minds of children was not easily filled; but we are happy to say that most of the scholars kindly and pleasantly co-operated with the teacher in every thing which concerned her comfort and their own good. We wish we could say this of all; but a few boys during the first half of the term made themselves prominent in conduct which materially hindered the prosperity of the school, and lowered themselves in the estimation of every friend of the school. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, Miss Jones was successful in doing much for the school, and the closing examination was creditable to her industry and perseverance to the end.

School No. 4. North East District.

Miss Lizzie P. Searle and Miss Emma M. Whitford, Teachers.

The Spring Term was under the care of Miss Searle of Bolton, who was a teacher of many vears experience, an excellent disciplinarian, and a high degree of prosperity was enjoyed through the term; but Miss Searle declined a re-engagement, and Miss Emma M. Whitford of Billerica, was engaged to supply her place. Miss W. is a Normal School graduate, and, as such, was well qualified for the position she was to occupy. She had taught some before, and was therefore better prepared for her duties in this school. The Fall Term was not so successful as it would have been, had it not been interrupted by sickness during the last half of the term, by which the numbers were greatly diminished, and in consequence of the sickness of many of the scholars and the teacher also, the school closed without any examination. But the Winter Term has been a more successful one, and the closing examination satisfied the Committee, that well-directed labor had been rewarded by a reasonable share of prosperity.

This school is undergoing one of those changes incident to all our schools, as one after another of the scholars are transferred to the High School. Some of our best scholars, which have entered the High School, have come up from this school, and it is not strange that their loss should, at some time, be severely felt. We would invite a little more kindly interest and co-operation on the part of parents, making it more pleasant and agreeable for both teacher and scholars. The order of the school has been good, and we know of no reason why the next term may not be a prosperous one.

School No. 5. South East District. Miss Helen A. Fiske, Teacher.

We believe the past year with this school has been one of cheerful, pleasant labor on the part of teacher and scholars. Life, enthusiasm and vigor, seemed to mark all the exercises, and the Committee were never better satisfied with the results secured. The answer to all questions were correctly and promptly given, and every thing we saw and heard gave evidence of a live and vigorous school. The school-room is pleasantly ornamented with drawings made by the scholars, and several pictures adorn the walls, which have been purchased by the joint efforts of teacher and scholars. The scholars, by turns, have taken care of the school-room, made the fire, &c., and then have devoted the money in purchasing these pictures. We would not fail to speak of the singing, with its "echoing" strains.

The statistics of the school are as follows:-

Whole number of scholars,	e•	: •	•	•		•	22
Daily average attendance,						•	17
Percentage of attendance,	, •			•	•		95
Tardy marks,					74	•	9
Constant in attendance thro		the	year,				2

School No. 6. South West District.

Miss Addie Stone, Teacher.

By our previous visits to this school, as well as from its past reputation, we were prepared to expect considerable from it at its close; and we were not disappointed. Where every thing was so good it is not an easy thing to particularize in respect to the different parts. Under the prudent watchcare of Miss Stone, of whom it is enough to say that we regard her as one of our very best teachers, the school has flourished and prospered as we have seldom known it to before in a single year. The classes in Geography are deserving of special notice, particularly the Primary

class, consisting of very young children, but whose proficiency we think exceeded any thing we have ever seen in scholars of similar age.

We have no hesitation in saying that we have never seen the school in better condition than we found it at the close of this year. Much has been done by a free contribution among the schoolars to provide themselves with many useful articles for the school-room. A map of the U. States, a globe, a counting frame, bell, &c., have been among the purchases. One of Mason & Hamlin's cabinet organs has been hired, with the right to purchase at the end of the term, and placed in the school-room, which has been an essential aid in learning the music to which we listened at the closing examination.

We cannot close this notice without referring again to the excellent state of feeling which prevails in this District. There is, 1st. A faithful and efficient teacher, in whom all are united—2d. Children who go to the school-room with the intention of devoting themselves closely to their studies—and 3d. Parents and friends who take a deep interest in all that concerns the best good of the school. All may be expressed in a single short sentence, viz: "This is our school, and we will care for it and watch over it." While this state of things shall continue, there will never be wanting the elements of complete success. We earnestly hope that it will be the privilege of the District to enjoy the services of the present faithful teacher for many years.

The statistics of the school are as follows:—

Whole number of scholars,			•	•	•	27
Daily average attendance,			•			21
Percentage of attendance,						93
Tardy marks,						42
Constant in attendance through	ugh th	ie yea	r,			2

HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. John F. Casey and Mr. John H. Larry, Principals. Miss Lizzie S. Coburn and Mrs. J. H. Larry, Assistants.

The Spring Term of the school continued under the care of Mr. John F. Casey and Miss Lizzie S. Coburn. It was expected that Mr. Casey would continue to occupy a position which he had so acceptably filled; but he notified the Committee before the time of commencing the Fall Term, that he had chosen another field of labor. We were fortunate, however, in securing again the services of Mr. John H. Larry, the former Principal, and under whose successful management the school has attained a large part of its influence and standing. Mr. Larry possesses the rare faculty of arousing the ambition of his scholars, while he secures their love and co-operation in carrying forward every measure essential to the prosperity of the school.

During the Fall Term he was assisted by Miss Coburn, and during the Winter Term by his wife. Teachers and scholars have been faithful in the discharge of their respective duties, and we believe that a large amount of work has been accomplished which cannot be measured by the view presented in a single day.

It has been a question of serious consideration with the Committee to know, how the instruction of our High School can be so conducted as to best subserve the wants of our citizens. Many believe in that course of study which is calculated to meet the wants of quite a large class of boys, who from the circumstances of their parents are unable to enter the University, and intend only to pursue some branch of mercantile or mechanical employment. It is said, and with much truth we think, that the ideas and appliances of our educational system should be directed to the actual wants of the scholar with reference to his intended pursuit in life. And while we are not unmindful that a thorough education may be valuable in any department of industry, yet we are well aware, that very many among us have only a limited period in which they can remain in school, and during that period we wish them to secure that which will benefit them most in the practical

business in which they may engage. We know how difficult it is to meet the wants and wishes of all in a single school;—let us have patience and perseverance, and we are sure there will be an approximation toward the end desired.

We love the High School; and what has been said in another case is true also in this,—that in spite of all its defects and short-comings, it is the crown of our system of public instruction. A cloud of witnesses attests its work. What it has already achieved for the character of this community cannot be measured merely by the lives of useful men and women—its graduates. It has drawn to its own plane all our lower schools. It has been worth to our town far more than it has cost. From its ranks have come forth many of our most worthy and efficient teachers, and its pupils, wherever dispersed, have confirmed the value of its discipline.

Let it still be cherished by our citizens, that it may ever be an honor to our town, and a blessing to generations yet to come; and let us have from you, fellow citizens, such suggestions and improvements in the management of the school as your thoughtful wisdom can suggest.

The statistics of the school	are a	as foll	ows:-	_		
Whole number of scholars, .						56
Daily average attendance, .			•			38
Percentage of attendance, .		•				88
Tardy marks,			•			71
Constant in attendance through	gh th	e vear				11

EDWIN HOBBS, ISAAC E. COBURN, REUBEN WILLIS,

School
Committee.

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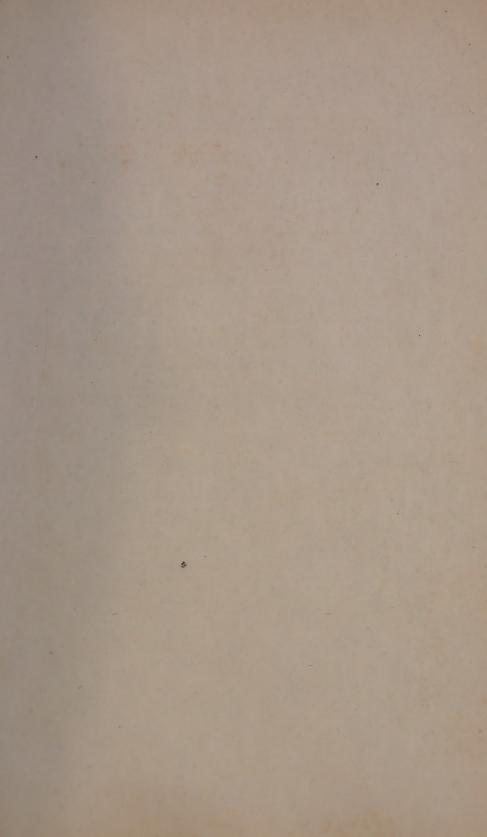
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